

1955–1965. He related to me that when he won his election in 1954, he thought he would be entering a Republican Congress, but he soon learned that the Democrats had regained the majority. Congressman Avery was destined to serve all his tenure in the minority. He always felt a little jilted by history, and that is why he wanted to be on the floor of the U.S. House when the gavel passed. At that moment I realized how fortunate I really was to be entrusted with a job representing the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas, and I realized just how historic a shift in Congress can be.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Governor Avery is enjoying the beautiful Autumn evening back home in Wakefield, Kansas. I want to thank him for all his words of inspiration, his dedication and his enduring attitude. When the history of Kansas is written, it will be as kind to Governor Avery as he has been to anyone who has had the good fortune to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to call Governor Avery my friend and to help recognize him this day for the many accomplishments he has provided the people of Kansas and this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained during roll-call votes 505–508. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote 505, 506, 507, and 508. I would ask that the RECORD reflect these votes.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF FRANK GARRISON

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frank Garrison, on the eve of his retirement as President of the Michigan State AFL–CIO. Frank is truly one of our finest public servants in Michigan, having first been elected AFL–CIO President in 1986. As all who have ever met Frank know, he is a man who has devoted his life to helping Michigan's working men and women improve their lives.

Frank was born in 1934 in a small town in Indiana. His family, like so many others, was destitute and jobless as a result of the Great Depression. And so it was with gratitude that they named Frank after one of our country's greatest presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who created the Works Progress Administration [WPA], which allowed Frank's father to work, and helped get the family back on its feet. Frank has said he has always taken great pride in his namesake. I believe that he has certainly lived his life, like his namesake, with the purpose of helping America's working families—a goal, Mr. Speaker, that I believe is one of the most honorable of all goals.

In the early 1950s, Frank came to Michigan to find a job. He found one at General Motor's

Steering Gear plant in Saginaw, a city I am proud to represent today in Congress. Shortly thereafter, he joined UAW Local 699 and, in 1955, Frank married Ms. Dora Goodboo. Later, he was drafted into the Army, and served two years before returning to his job at the Saginaw Steering Gear plant in 1956.

Frank refers to the next event in his life as a true “turning point”. A fellow UAW Local 699 member invited him to hear a speech by the legendary Walter Reuther. Frank says he was spellbound with Reuther's deep commitment to the labor movement, and that Reuther instilled in Frank a purpose: To help ordinary working people band together and improve their lives. From that moment on, Frank has certainly been committed to doing precisely that. He ran successfully for office in UAW Local 699, and later went on to serve as Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, Shop Committeeman, Local Union Vice-President and Financial Secretary.

He went on to a variety of appointments and positions: UAW International Representative, Community Action Program (CAP) Coordinator for Region 1D, UAW lobbyist and Legislative Director, and Michigan CAP Director. He was appointed in 1982 as Executive Director of Michigan UAW–CAP, a position he held until his election as President of the Michigan State AFL–CIO in 1986. Frank went on to be one of the longest-serving presidents, and was re-elected in 1987, 1991, and 1995.

Frank's contributions and work on behalf of Michigan's working men and women are legendary and real. They do indeed reflect Frank's great commitment to the labor movement and his belief that it is a tool to effect great change in this country. Michigan's working families will always be grateful for Frank Garrison's work, for he selflessly gave of himself to make their lives better. For that, Mr. Speaker, I say he is truly worthy of a name shared with our former President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Frank has been blessed with a supportive and caring family—his wife Dora, their three daughters, seven grandchildren and great-grandchild. He has worked hard his entire life on behalf of others, and it is my hope that during his retirement, Frank will work just as hard to enjoy these years with his family and many friends. Mr. Speaker, I now invite you and our colleagues to offer your congratulations to Frank Garrison, and your most sincere wishes for a very happy and productive retirement.

M.G. VALLEJO, FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:***HD***M.G. VALLEJO, Friends and Acquaintances

(By Galal Kernahan)

When the Senate and the House of Representatives approved an “Act for the Admission of California into the Union” on September 9, 1850, its “Birth Certificate” had been reviewed and found in order, whereas, the people of California have presented a constitution and asked admission into the Union, which constitution was submitted to

Congress by the President of the United States.

1999 is American California's Constitutional Sesquicentennial. Forty-eight elected delegates met in Convention in Monterey and finished their work September 12, 1849. That work was approved in California-wide voting on December 13, 1849.

What follows is a glimpse of the human side of how this remarkable bilingual, multi-cultural state charter came into being. Chief source for the discussions and actions of the Monterey Convention one hundred and fifty years ago is an official 477-page account of what happened. Called “Browne's Debates,” it was published in English and in Spanish. It was bound in Washington, D.C., in 1850, in order to be properly presented together with the California Constitution to the U.S. President and appropriate officials.

The seal of the State of California is more than a little strange. It centers on a seated lady. At her feet a Grizzly bear munches grape clusters. Considering the relative scale of things, that is one huge woman! Grizzlies average 500–600 pounds and can top out at almost twice that. It looks like a dumpy dog compared to her.

Well California is vast. And as First Assistant Secretary Caleb Lyon explained to our 48 Constitutional Forefathers, Saturday, September 29, 1849, in Monterey's Colton Hall schoolhouse: “She (the goddess Minerva . . . spring full grown from the brain of Jupiter) is introduced as a type of the political birth of the State of California . . .” In other words, we jumped straight into being a State without spending any time in Aunt Sam's womb as a Territory.

And the bear? . . . emblematic of the peculiar characteristics of the country.”

Monterey-born Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo well knew those peculiar characteristics. Bears could be mean: bullying, armed, irregular “Bear Flaggers,” meaner. They locked him up and mistreated him. He facetiously suggested that, if the bear had to remain in the Seal, it should “be represented as made fast by a lasso in the hands of a vaquero.” The idea lost by five votes.

The convention was crawling with ambitious cub lawyers. They averaged from four months to a year or two in California. They were impressed with the symbolism—the miner with his rocker, ships on the waters, snow-clad peaks of the Sierra Nevada. “Eureka” (found it!) was a nifty motto too.

On Friday, October 12, 1849, after a traditional official thank-you to Chairman Robert Semple (like Vallejo, another 42-year-old from Sonoma), they trooped over to pay respects to California's Military Governor Brigadier General Bennett Riley. Before parting for San Joaquin, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, Sonoma, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, and San Jose, they partied away the night. Each chipped in \$25 for an historic blow-out, a real two-violin-guitar fandango. A 31-gun cannon salute heralded what would be American's 31st State . . . eleven months later.

On leaving next day, Henry Hill and Miguel de Pedroena wondered if printed copies of California's “Birth Certificate” would reach their remote San Diego district before people voted. Not to worry. Ratification carried 12,872 to 811 on a rainy November 13, 1849.

The most important thing the Constitution proved is that CALIFORNIANS BUILD THEIR STATE TOGETHER. They have from the start.

That doesn't mean it was a September Song in rustic Monterey in 1849. Delegates connived, bickered, blathered, were or became friends . . . or enemies. California diversity—as it always can—made the Convention work well enough for good things to happen.

The issue of slavery was tearing the United States apart. Furies, that would explode in